

finger-print expert who scored many convictions on finger-print evidence at that time.

I suggest that you get a list of all possible names of newspapermen who worked on the Hall-Mills case in the early days. From some of them who are friendly you ought to be able to learn what Schwartz said about the case at that time. It would be a strange thing if he made no mention of the finger-print element.

And somebody must have discussed finger-prints at that time. Some reporter must have inquired of the investigators about finger-prints. For just the year before George Brandon had been electrocuted at Trenton on finger-print evidence (given by Schwartz) for a murder of a couple in Rahway, and there had been a great hue and cry over that case, a desperate fight to save Brandon, and much newspaper publicity given to it.

Re a search of the New York papers.-- If you like, I think I can easily get for you the entree to the Herald-Tribune reference envelopes on the Hall-Mills case. These envelopes contain clippings of all news stories about the case which have appeared in the principal New York City dailies, if not in all of the local dailies. If you want to have one of your assistants examine the Herald-Tribune envelopes, give me two days' notice. This could be done without any one at the Herald-Tribune knowing the purpose of the examination. This search at the H-T office should be made between 7 p.m. and midnight -- or perhaps access could be made to the envelopes until 1 a.m. I have at times made similar searches at the H-T offices for the purpose of getting data for magazine writing, and that could be the ostensible purpose of your search.

MY OWN CONNECTIONS -- I am in the research department of the Federal Council of Churches (105 East 22nd Street), and am now engaged in making a study of prison labor systems throughout the United States. I did the documentary research for the Wehde-Beffel book, "Finger-Prints Can be Forged". I have had considerable experience in defense work, having put in a year on the Sacco-Vanzetti case and 19 months on the Centralia case in Washington State, both involving murder. In the latter case I obtained many affidavits from eye-witnesses and some from prosecution witnesses (this after the trial), which show clearly that the conviction was obtained through a frame-up.

This detail about myself is given simply for your information.

In both the Sacco-Vanzetti and the Centralia cases we obtained a good deal of valuable information by scanning the newspapers published immediately after the arrests. And in the former case some invaluable data was obtained from newspaper men who had worked on the case at the beginning.